

Transportation

The President is committed to maintaining the safety and economic viability of the roads, railways, pipelines, airways, and waterways upon which the Nation's economy depends. The President's Budget continues to assert a strong Federal role in improving the Nation's transportation infrastructure and in promoting a safe, secure, efficient, and interconnected national transportation system for the American people.

Improving Transportation Mobility:

- The Department of Transportation's (DOT) total requested spending for improving mobility is approximately \$38 billion for 2006, including:

Aviation Mobility:

- \$3 billion for the Grants-In-Aid for Airports program (AIP), which provides funding to airports for safety and capacity enhancement projects; and
- \$18 million for the FAA to begin to integrate the Government's disparate air traffic enhancement efforts; leverage investments in civil aviation, homeland security, and national security; and build upon current air traffic management initiatives.

Surface Mobility:

- To ease gridlock, the Budget modifies the Administration's surface transportation reauthorization proposal – the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) – to provide \$283.9 billion for highway and transit programs over six years (2004-2009). This funding level is consistent with last year's House-passed bill, and represents the maximum possible investment in our highway system supported by the Highway Trust Fund.

Aviation Safety:

- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established strategic goals to reduce the rates of commercial and general aviation fatal accidents, reduce the risk of potential runway collisions, and reduce cabin injuries caused by turbulence. The 2006 Budget supports FAA's continuing safety efforts by requesting \$10.8 billion, which includes:
 - \$8.2 billion in operational and personnel costs to permit hiring 595 air traffic controllers and 97 new safety inspectors. The \$8.2 billion includes:
 - \$2.4 billion in Information Technology (IT) investments, including \$210 million targeted to improve air space safety and \$1.5 billion to increase air space capacity; and
 - \$130 million for aviation research, of which \$89 million is devoted to research dedicated to improving aviation safety.

Surface Transportation Safety:

- The Budget requests \$231 million for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for safety operations and research programs and \$465 million for grants to States for targeted highway safety programs. Funding increases are directed toward increasing highway traffic grants to States and improving the Fatalities Analysis Reporting

system, which is the DOT database used to measure and analyze trends in vehicle fatalities.

- The Budget dedicates approximately \$7.5 billion over six years through the Administration's SAFETEA proposal to help States eliminate hazardous roadway conditions;
- The Budget requests \$233 million for aggressive State enforcement of interstate commercial truck and bus regulations;
- The Budget also commits \$232 million to support oversight of hazardous-materials transportation, Federal safety enforcement programs, and border safety inspections; and
- To improve rail safety, the Budget includes an additional \$14 million to substantially complete the National Differential Global Positioning System (NDGPS) broadcast station network in the continental United States; NDGPS, which relays GPS coordinates at one to three meter accuracy, will enable railroads to use Positive Train Control (PTC) technology to track the location and speed of trains on crowded tracks more accurately.

Reforming Intercity Passenger Rail Service:

- The 2006 Budget proposes \$360 million for the Surface Transportation Board to maintain existing commuter services and freight traffic along the Northeast Corridor and elsewhere. Until reforms consistent with the Administration's proposal are implemented, the budget will not propose funding for intercity passenger rail.

Maritime Administration:

- The Administration supports the continuation of a strong maritime and shipping industry. Overall, the Budget proposes a program level of \$294 million for the Maritime Administration. The Administration is especially supportive of those elements of the program that contribute to military preparedness, such as the Maritime Security Program (MSP). Within the total for the Maritime Administration, the President's Budget provides \$156 million – a \$57-million increase for MSP – expanding the number of vessels from 47 to 60 and increasing the per-vessel subsidy from \$2.1 to \$2.6 million annually. MSP provides direct payments to U.S.-flag ship operators to ensure adequate sealift support for the Department of Defense in times of war or national emergency.